

JUDGE DONALD J. VOLKERT, JR.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Donald J. Volkert, Jr., who will be joined by his friends, family and colleagues tomorrow night in celebration of his retirement as assignment judge for Passaic County.

Judge Volkert received his undergraduate degree from the University of Charleston in 1966, and later received his law degree from Ohio Northern University in 1969. He then began his impressive career at the Supreme Court of Ohio, and from there he had many different judicial appointments in Essex County from the criminal division, to the family division, to drug court. During his tenure in Essex County, Judge Volkert served on a wide range of committees; he was chair of the New Jersey Conference of Family Presiding Judges, chair of the Bail Judges Sub-Committee as well as co-chair of the Essex County Youth Services Commission.

In May 2008, Judge Volkert was named assignment judge of the Passaic Vicinage by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner. Since his appointment, Judge Volkert has helped make the Passaic County Drug Court into a model for other vicinages.

A strong believer in continuing education, Judge Volkert serves as chair of the Sub-Committee on Judicial Education and is a frequent lecturer for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Judicial College and New Judge Orientation as well as numerous other seminars and learning programs.

Judge Volkert has always been an avid supporter of our troops and with one son in the Marine Corps his dedication has only grown. Judge Volkert was instrumental in instituting Military Appreciation Month in Passaic County which honors veterans as well as assists them in getting the services they may need. Judge Volkert's appreciation for our veterans is unwavering; at the first Military Appreciation Month event he stated, "I don't think we could ever do enough to honor the men and women who have served our country."

Judge Volkert has made an outstanding mark on Passaic County with his compassionate nature and dedication towards upholding justice. I know he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Susan, his six children Christine, Scott, Jaime, Elizabeth, Stephen, and Michael, as well as his three grandchildren, Jack William, Paula Marie and Max Higgins.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals like Judge Volkert.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Judge Volkert's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing Judge Donald J. Volkert, Jr.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Monday September 15, 2014 I was not present for 1 vote. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 497, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES D. FIELD

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congressman MARK TAKANO, to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community are exceptional. Riverside, California has been fortunate to have dynamic and committed leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. Charles Field is certainly one of these individuals. Charles' wide ranging accomplishments have made a permanent mark on Riverside. On September 17, 2014, Charles will be stepping down from the Western Municipal Water District Board of Directors after seven remarkable years of service.

During Charles' time with the Western Municipal Water District Board, he enthusiastically gave his talents to a variety of positions, including President, Vice President and Secretary. Additionally, Charles represented the Western Municipal Water District through distinguished leadership on the Chino Desalter Authority and on the Chino Basin Watermaster Board as well as serving on additional Western Municipal Water District and regional committees during his tenure.

Charles' dedication to civic service was matched by his passion in the legal field. Prior to joining the Western Municipal Water District Board of Directors, Mr. Field spent more than forty years in the various legal capacities, serving as a judge at the Riverside County Superior Court from 1990 to 2004 and also as a partner at the Riverside law firm Best, Best and Krieger.

It is hard to imagine that Charles would have any free time on his hands, yet he always found time to further support the community and the lives of those around him. The variety of organizations Charles gave his efforts to include the Riverside Arts Council, the Riverside County Barristers, the Mission Inn Foundation Board, the Historic Committee for Riverside Superior Court, the Press-Enterprise Board of Directors, the Board of Regents of the University of California, and the UCR Alumni Association.

For all that he has done, it is no surprise that Charles has been the recipient of numerous community awards. His dedicated civic leadership, service and support of the Riverside community were honored with the prestigious Frank Miller Civic Achievement Award. Charles, along with his wife, Virginia, also received the Lifetime Achievement Award for

their devoted community involvement from Riverside's Mayor's Commission on Aging.

Charles' unparalleled commitment and tireless passion for public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Riverside community. We are proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many individuals are grateful for his service and we salute him as he steps down and embarks on a new chapter.

HONORING RILEY TOMLINSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Riley Tomlinson. Riley is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 419, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Riley has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Riley has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Riley has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Riley Tomlinson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNUAL
HISPANIC PIONEERS BREAKFAST**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Hispanic Pioneer's Breakfast in Aurora, Illinois.

For the past ten years, Alderman Juany Garza, who represents Ward 2 on the City Council of Aurora, has hosted a breakfast to honor the members of the Hispanic community who have given back and inspired us all.

These breakfasts have honored diverse members of the community. Past honorees have included local sports figures, health care providers, police officers, firefighters, and members of the military.

For the 10th Annual Hispanic Pioneer's Breakfast, Alderman Garza is highlighting the contributions of the unsung heroes in Aurora, people who have dedicated their time and effort to making their community better without looking for praise or reward.

I would like to thank our unsung heroes for their dedication to making our community stronger. I would also like to thank Alderman Garza for her continued service to the people of Aurora, Illinois.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 497: I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

but I can say Mother,
I still love you

Mr. Speaker, Jean "Granny" Harper was a dear friend, and a wonderful human being. I am so truly saddened by her passing. She will be dearly missed.

MY LIFE IS WORTH IT CAMPAIGN

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, few words are more isolating and strike fear in the heart of a person or the parent of a child than cancer. 36,570 Tennesseans will be diagnosed with cancer this year. Thankfully, due to the work of thousands of scientists, death rates due to all cancers continue to decline. 14 million Americans who are cancer survivors will celebrate their birthdays this year. These stories of hope in the face of a devastating illness inspire us all.

But not everyone is surviving. It is sobering to think, in the U.S., someone dies because of cancer every 60 seconds. We must continue the fight against this devastating illness. We must examine all barriers to finding the cure for all cancers.

One such barrier is the time it takes for new therapies to reach the patient. Delays occur at the regulatory level and at the reimbursement level. The time it takes for a new drug to move from the laboratory to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval can take 10–15 years. Additional time is spent in determining the reimbursement level by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Recently, the FDA showed that it has the flexibility to greatly shorten the time line to approval. A meningitis vaccine, not previously available in the U.S., was granted FDA approval in a remarkably shortened timeline. The landmark decision came after meningitis outbreaks at U.S. colleges resulted in deaths and disability and a great public outcry.

The same flexibility needs to be shown to those who have cancer and are reaching for promising therapies that regulators have kept just out of their reach.

I am pleased that the grassroots organization, "My Life is Worth It," has begun an online campaign to collect one million signatures in support of several critical actions that can be taken to bring innovative cancer therapies to the patients that need them most.

On September 16th there will be a powerful display around the Capitol Reflecting Pool on the National Mall. The "Lights of Hope" sponsored by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is estimated to involve over 15,000 committed advocates, serving as a beacon of hope to those who have been touched by cancer—while remembering those who have been lost. As we look out on the National Mall and see these lights, let Congress resolve to do all we can to ensure that those who need it most have the hope to survive and live a happy and fruitful life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 497 had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF STATE SENATOR DARREN SOTO

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Florida Senator Darren Soto. Born in New York in 1978, Darren Soto is of both Puerto Rican and Italian descent. He earned a bachelor's degree in Economics at Rutgers University and attended law school at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Darren is a commercial and civil rights attorney proudly practicing law in Central Florida. He is an ardent defender of civil rights and is committed to rendering legal services pro bono to the community. In 2006, he was named class counsel in the federal class-action brought on behalf of Hispanic voters against the City of Kissimmee in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Darren is also a former member of the Civil Service Board for the City of Orlando, and held the positions of Treasurer of the Orange County Democrats and Vice President of Communications for the Orange County Young Democrats (YD). He was also the co-host for YD's Speak Easy events, which provide a monthly forum for local and state leaders to speak to young voters.

Darren was elected to represent District 49 in the Florida House of Representatives in a special election in 2007, and was subsequently re-elected in 2008 and 2010. He has passed several important pieces of legislation including the Luis Rivera-Ortega Street Racing Act, the Firefighter Death Benefit Bill (inspired by the death of Volusia County firefighter John C. Curry), and the Bus Driver Notification Bill. He has also been a critical voice in defeating attempts to convert Florida to non-judicial foreclosures, stopping the split of the Florida Supreme Court, and blocking a proposed anti-Hispanic Arizona-style immigration law in Florida.

In 2012, Darren was elected to represent District 14 in the Florida Senate. He is currently serving as Vice Chair on the Judiciary Committee. Senator Soto also serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice, the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, the Community Affairs Committee, the Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee, and the Ethics and Elections Committee.

In May of 2013, Darren married Amanda Betlow, an Orange County school teacher.

I am honored to recognize Senator Darren Soto, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his leadership and contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEAN H. "GRANNY" HARPER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Jean H. Harper, who sadly passed away on August 28, 2014. "Granny," as Jean was affectionately called by loved ones, community members, and those in her church family, lived a life of service and selflessness.

Born in Avondale, North Carolina, on January 14, 1921, she was the fifth child of David and Alda Sims Hart's twelve children. Shortly after, her family relocated to Washington, DC, where she resided for the rest of her life.

Jean worked as a dietitian at Freedman's Hospital (the forerunner of Howard University Hospital) for 32 years. While working at the hospital, she met the love of her life, James "Jimmy" Harper, who she soon married before the birth of her sole child, her daughter Barbara Jean. In 1954, the family moved to their eventual life-home on Taylor Street NW., She remained a devoted servant of her community and missionary within her church, working actively up until her passing in the Pastor's Aide Ministry of the Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church.

However, Jean was most devoted to her family. She could always be found with Barbara, her grandchildren, great grandson, and other members of her extended family and close friends. She enjoyed traveling, cooking and socializing, but was renowned for being a problem solver for all who came into contact with her.

I had the privilege to know "Granny" through her daughter Barbara, a former staff member of my office. I was always delighted to check in with her over a birthday call or simply reminiscing about the old days. She was a comforting soul and devoted woman of God, who had time for anyone that needed her. While "Granny" is no longer with us, her spirit and loving memory will always live on.

In memory of her mother, Barbara recited a poem by Calan Booth at Jean's funeral entitled, "Mother," which I include, as it resonated with me deeply:

Without you Mother,
I would not be here,
for the start of my life
came from you Mother dear.
When I was a child
you sacrificed for me,
and shaped what I would be.
Now the years have gone
and I'm not always there,
but I know you still worry,
about my welfare
I can never pay for
all you've had to do,